



DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

Team Release

Race Report

2017/9/24 Rd-6 SPORTSLAND SUGO

Weather : Clear Temperature : 26°C 19 cars

Audience : 8,700/23rd (Sat.)、14,000/24th (Sun)

There remains two rounds, three races including SUGO in 2017 season.

Rd6 at Sportsland SUGO, which holds the key to the championship, started under a clear sky with the lingering summer heat, nothing like as cloudy as it was yesterday.

Izawa who started from 11th position overtook 3 cars taking advantage of the starting jam, and jumped up to 8th. Nojiri also overtook a car and finished the opening lap in 14th. Past Lap8, the teams planning to make pit stops at an early stage started to take action. DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING called Nojiri in to the pits first, and refueled his car.

Halfway through the race, Izawa in 5th position kept recording his best time, however, the order was not changed. While some teams tried non-refuel strategy, he just fought the invisible fight until he made a pit stop on Lap56, and then began to chase the group without pit stops.

In the situation in which variety of strategies were going on, Nojiri competed with rivals and ended up in 12th. Izawa finished 68-lap survival race in point-paying 8th position.

#40: Tomoki Nojiri Position 12th (3rd among HONDA users)

Although I couldn't raise my position up to 12th in the race, I have a positive feeling about my race pace. My performance in QF had been improving through Rd4 at Motegi and Rd5 at Autopolis, so it is regrettable that I didn't do well at SUGO all the more.

It is very difficult to get a point, let alone mount the podium, in current Super Formula Championship. I have to tackle these issues and improve myself with my team for the last round at Suzuka.

#41: Takuya Izawa Position 8th (2nd among HONDA users)

I was at a good pace after starting and competed with the leading group. Just like Nojiri, if I had gotten a better position in QF, it would have been different. I am not satisfied, but I am glad of a precious point in 8th position among drivers with various strategies.

I didn't leave good result in most of the races this season, because of lack of speed and so on, even when it looked like going well first. I will prepare for the last round at Suzuka to wrap up the season with a triumph.